Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/02/25: CIA-RDP91-00587R000100010073-2

WASHINGTON POST 12 March 1985

ARTICLE APPEARED
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Winifred Sturdevant Compton,

77, a retired language specialist with the Central Intelligence Agency, died of cardiac arrest March 10 at Sibley Memorial Hospital.

Miss Compton, a resident of Chevy Chase, was with the CIA for 20 years before she retired in 1969. She served in Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Laos and France.

Born in Cragsmoor, N.Y., she was educated in the United States and France. She held bachelor's degrees from the University of Nice and Vassar College and a master's degree in French from Columbia University.

She was an intelligence officer with the Army during World War II and won the Bronze Star. She also was decorated by the Belgian government with the Croix de Guerre, the Order of the Crown and the Order of St. Elizabeth.

Miss Compton had lived in the Washington area since the late 1940s, but she had continued to maintain a summer home in Cragsmoor where she was active in amateur theatrical productions in the summer. She was a member of the Woman's National Democratic Club.

Survivors include a sister, Clarissa Compton Dryden of Port Republic, Md.